

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Spriestersbach et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/549,880  
Filed : July 10, 2006  
For : METHOD FOR INERT GAS  
WELDING OR INERT GAS  
SOLDERING OF WORKPIECES  
COMPRISING IDENTICAL OR  
DIFFERENT METALS OR  
METAL ALLOYS BY MEANS OF  
AN ADDITIONAL ZN/AL METAL  
Examiner : Unknown  
Group Art Unit: 1742

REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Office of Initial Patent Examination  
Customer Service Center  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby requests that the Official Filing Receipt, a copy of which is enclosed, be corrected to reflect the following: in the title, please insert the word "of" before "workpieces" so that the title reads METHOD FOR INERT GAS WELDING OR INERT GAS SOLDERING **OF** WORKPIECES COMPRISING IDENTICAL OR DIFFERENT METALS OR METAL ALLOYS BY MEANS OF AN ADDITIONAL ZN/AL METAL. For your convenience, a copy of the Declaration/Power of Attorney and cover page of the specification is enclosed.

**Appl. No.** : 10/549,880  
**Filed** : July 10, 2006

We look forward to receiving the corrected filing receipt in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: January 8, 2007

By: 

Marina L. Gordy  
Registration No. 52,950  
Agent of Record  
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## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| APPL NO.   | FILING OR 371<br>(c) DATE | ART UNIT | FIL FEE REC'D | ATTY. DOCKET NO | DRAWINGS | TOT CLMS | IND CLMS |
|------------|---------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 10/549,880 | 07/10/2006                | 1742     | 1030          | STERN28.001APC  |          | 11       | 1        |

CONFIRMATION NO. 5880

20995  
 KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP  
 2040 MAIN STREET  
 FOURTEENTH FLOOR  
 IRVINE, CA 92614

## FILING RECEIPT



\*OC000000020262846\*

Date Mailed: 08/31/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

## Applicant(s)

Jochen Priestersbach, Duisburg, GERMANY;  
 Jurgen Wisniewski, Wesel, GERMANY;  
 Frank Prenger, Ratingen, GERMANY;

**Power of Attorney:** The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number **20995**.

## Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP04/50284 03/10/2004

## Foreign Applications

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 03007198.9 03/29/2003  
 If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 08/30/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US10/549,880**

**Projected Publication Date:** 12/07/2006

**Non-Publication Request:** No

**Early Publication Request:** No

## Title

Method for inert gas welding or inert gas soldering workpieces comprising identical or different metals or metal alloys by means of an additional Zn/Al metal

## Preliminary Class

420

## PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

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For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY- USA PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHOD FOR INERT GAS WELDING OR INERT GAS SOLDERING OF WORKPIECES COMPRISING IDENTICAL OR DIFFERENT METALS OR METAL ALLOYS BY MEANS OF AN ADDITIONAL ZN/AL METAL**; the specification of which was filed on September 16, 2006 as Application Serial No. **10/549,880** and was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. **PCT/EP2004/050284**, filed on March 10, 2004.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)**

Priority  
Claimed

No.: **03007198.9**Country: **Europe**Date Filed: **03/29/03****Yes**

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** I hereby appoint the registrants of Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Irvine, California 92614, Telephone (949) 760-0404, Customer No. 20,995.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Full name of first inventor: **Jochen Priestersbach**

Inventor's signature

Date

17.05.2006

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Citizenship: German

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Full name of second inventor: **Jurgen Wisniewski**

Inventor's signature

Jurgen Wisniewski

Date

16.05.2006

Residence: Sebastianusstr. 3, 46487 Wesel, Germany

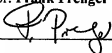
Citizenship: German

Mailing Address: same as above

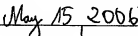
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Inventor's signature



Date



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**Customer No. 20,995**





10/549880

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 SEP 2005

STERN28.001APC

PATENT

**METHOD FOR INERT GAS WELDING OR INERT GAS SOLDERING OF  
WORKPIECES COMPRISING IDENTICAL OR DIFFERENT METALS OR  
METAL ALLOYS BY MEANS OF AN ADDITIONAL ZN/AL METAL**

[0001] The invention relates to a method for inert gas welding or inert gas soldering of workpieces made of identical or different metals or metal alloys, using an additional Zn base metal alloy. Workpieces made of steel, magnesium, aluminum, copper and alloys thereof are welded or soldered, and the workpieces to be joined may consist of identical or different metals or metal alloys. The invention further relates to a wire that is used in said method.

[0002] In the motor manufacturing industry and particularly in car manufacture, the use of a variety of light metal components in bodywork construction has become common practice in order to reduce the overall weight of the bodywork, which has a positive effect on the overall fuel consumption. Frequently, components made of aluminum, aluminum alloys or magnesium alloys are used in this context. In fact, vehicles are now being marketed wherein these materials constitute much more than half of the bodywork thereof.

[0003] The change of materials used in bodywork construction has also necessitated a corresponding adaptation of the prior art joining processes. While earlier bodywork construction essentially required sheet steel joining, it has now become necessary to provide joints between different materials in a way so as to allow use thereof in an industrial production process without major complications.

[0004] To join sheet steel, such as galvanized thin sheet metal frequently used in bodywork construction, the prior art uses inert gas welding or inert gas soldering, among other things. Such methods have been described in DIN 1910-2.

[0005] Metal inert gas welding is a method wherein a workpiece in the area to be welded is melted by means of an arc burning between a wire electrode in a flow of inert gas and the workpiece. The wire electrode may include welding additives and has to be adjusted to the material to be welded. In this way, the workpiece areas to be welded are joined with each other.